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such a high order that there is no branch of the profession that would not receive benefit from a careful study of it. In the great mass of decisions which are flooding the country and the encyclopedic treatment of law subjects, one has often to look a long time before he finds the philosophy of the law. Such a one may find sweet relief by resorting to the works of Bishop; and if now and then the sarcasm of the author will startle him, the gratifying result is that it stimulates the searcher after truth to "look and see."

The work is adapted for use by the student, who desires to "get to the bottom of things;" by the busy practitioner, who wants to "find the law and find it quickly;" by the judge, who desires to decide between the conflicting authorities which are insisted on before him; and by any intelligent and thoughtful man who desires to develop his mind, get an insight into human nature and a knowledge of the law so far as the latter is applicable to the weaknesses of the former.

THE WAR BETWEEN THE UNION AND THE CONFEDERACY AND ITS LOST OPPORTUNITIES, with a History of the Fifteenth Alabama Regiment and the Forty-eight Battles in which it was Engaged. By William C. Oates, Colonel in the Confederate Army; Representative in Congress; Governor of Alabama; Brigadier-General U. S. A.; Member of the Alabama Constitutional Conventions of 1875 and 1901. \$3.00. The Neal Publishing Co.: New York and Washington.

This work does not pretend to be the product of scholarship and learning, but claims the virtues of truth and labor. It is a contribution of a busy man of affairs to the history of one of the great epochs of our national life, and is interesting as a side-light on many events transpiring during the war. General Oates does not hesitate to give his estimate of "men and manners." Jefferson Davis, while eulogized as a fine gentleman of the old school, is regarded by the author as unfit for the great task to which he was called, notably because of inattention to details, obstinacy in refusing to follow the advice of competent advisors, and being subservient to the stronger mind of his wife.

One gratifying result of the appearance of such a work as this will be to stimulate the pride of the descendants of the "Fifteenth Alabama," and to lead to the further study of the exploits of the thin gray line of heroes.

THE TRUE HENRY CLAY. By John M. Rogers. *Twenty-four Illustrations.* J. B. Lippincott Company. Philadelphia and London: 1904. Cloth, \$2.00 net.

This is a most interesting volume in a most interesting series known as the "True Biographies." It is an intensely engaging account of the life of that truly picturesque American, who, though he was the people's idol, never realized his ambition to become the executive head of the nation. The author in the preparation of his work had access to all the private Clay papers now in possession of the Clay family. Hence he has been able to present to the public much which has heretofore been inaccessible. The book clears away some popular fallacies concerning the great statesman. It shows that while it is generally assumed that Clay was the father of protection, in truth his attitude on the subject nearly resulted in the death of the principle of which he was the reputed champion. It shows that while it has also been thought that he was the father of the sound money doctrine because he was an advocate of the national bank, when, as a matter of fact, he was wobbly on the subject, voting as a rule against

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Benton's specie standard, which to-day is the law of the land. Clay has also been looked upon as an enemy to the institution of slavery, yet he helped to extend it. He has been thought to be the great compromiser and pacificator, yet his last great stand was simply a precursor of the Civil War, which was staved off until it became more deadly. The truth is that Clay was on opposite sides of a number of important questions, and whatever virtues he may have possessed, consistency was not one of them.

One who has not made a close study of the career of Henry Clay will find by a perusal of this excellent work that many of his pre-conceived ideas of the man are shattered.

ANNOTATIONS TO THE CODE OF WEST VIRGINIA. From Decisions of the Courts of Last Resort of West Virginia and Virginia. Edited by W. M. Justis, Jr., Attorney-At-Law, Richmond, Va. Published by Wm. E. Ross, State Bank Bld'g. Richmond, Va.: 1905. \$7.50 delivered.

The Virginia lawyer will find this work exceedingly valuable because the West Virginia Code, being founded on our own, is so nearly the same that the Court of Appeals of West Virginia when it passes upon a statute of its own State is practically construing a Virginia statute. A comparative table prefixed to the book shows some eight hundred of the most important sections of the Virginia Code which have been interpreted by the Court of Appeals of West Virginia. The table is so arranged that it can be ascertained at a glance whether the court of last resort of our sister State has passed upon a given section of our own Code. Fortunately the statutes thus construed are in daily use by the Virginia practitioner. The West Virginia Court has passed upon many Virginia statutes which have never been construed in this State, and also upon new phases of Virginia statutes never considered by our Court of Appeals. For illustration: On the statutes relating to deeds (almost identical in the two states) there are 191 decisions in West Virginia and 108 in Virginia. The statutes on ejectment are identical. In West Virginia there are 185 decisions upon these statutes, and in Virginia 127. From this it will be seen that the Virginia lawyer will have in Mr. Justis' work a most valuable companion for his Virginia Code Annotated.

The work contains nearly 1,200 pages and would easily have filled two volumes had the author followed the fashion of the day in afflicting the profession by separating into two books what for convenience sake should be in one.